

WEB PAGE REVOLUTION/EVOLUTION

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This is the third in a series of articles by Network librarians who have created homepages for their institutions. We hope you will find this series helpful. Please contact us if you would like to share your own experiences in homepage construction.

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

HAWAII

NEVADA

PACIFIC BASIN

Two years ago, when I conceived the crazy notion to create the RFK Library's Web Page, I did so partly as a challenge to myself to learn HTML and partly to jump start the idea on this campus of using the Internet to post information, not just to retrieve it. Back in 1995, most people on our campus had little notion of what a Web page was, much less how to use or produce one. Our Internet connection was text only and many offices were without reliable power or phone lines to sustain any kind of useful connection. But that's another article.

I had done enough surfing to realize that universities, in general, and libraries, in particular, were beginning to make use of Web pages to post basic information - hours, services, names & numbers. But the better pages also held or led to enough information to make them a valuable resource themselves.

Armed with Laura Lemay's *Teach Yourself Web Publishing in a Week* and my slow but reliable 286, I dove into the world of HTML programming in ASCII. My first product was remarkably boring,

resembling one of our library handouts. Fortunately, Web pages are infinitely revisable. With some tweaks and the introduction of a few links, the page evolved into a much more user-friendly site. It includes the basics, such as faculty names, numbers, hours and a link to our OPAC. But it also includes links to many resources that we use regularly to answer reference questions - lists of publishers, other major library OPACs, several news services, a document delivery source, an online bookstore and music store and several search engines. A remote location like Guam may have different needs from those of other less isolated libraries.

But after you create a page you have to get people to know about it and use it. We programmed our in-house public access stations to default to the RFK Library Web Page and in our training sessions made frequent use of the established links found on the page. Increasingly, reference librarians found we could preface many of our answers with "...you know, you can get there from our home page." As users made suggestions about their favorite links, I

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Latitudes

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(Web Page Revolution, continued from page 1)

added them when appropriate. It takes awhile to condition library users but it can be done.

Time has passed and everyone speaks of Web pages now. Many units on our campus have created their own Web pages. Some are well done; some are disasters. To counter some of the worst errors, I worked with our University Information & Technology Committee to draft *Web Page Standards and Guidelines*. Again, I turned to the Web itself and browsed various university home pages to collect ideas on what to do or what not to do. Also, many institutions have posted their own guidelines. Particularly useful were those of the University of Wisconsin - Madison [http://www.library.wisc.edu/help/tech/Web_standards.html], Arlene Rinaldi's at Florida Atlantic University at <http://www.fau.edu/wise/policy.html> and Stacey Kimmel's compilation of policies and guidelines at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/~Stacey/wwwpols.html>. Our own Computer Center provided the technical guidelines.

Because Web pages are living documents and the Internet evolves so rapidly, provisions had to be included requiring that each unit with a Web page

appoint a liaison whose responsibility it is to frequently and regularly review and test their unit's pages. Links change or die with alarming frequency on the Web. Nothing is more frustrating to users than to have links fail.

Similarly, when a Web page is created and mounted on the institutional server, some announcement should be made. Our guidelines require that the Public Information Officer and Academic Vice-President be notified that a site is up. Few controls are placed on content but university Web pages need to be announced and made known to those on campus and beyond.

The University of Guam is a small school without any one person having the responsibility or authority as Webmaster. The University of Guam's *Web Page Standards and Guidelines* provide advice, structure and guidance to new Web page developers and allow for some measure of control and protection as Web pages proliferate.

A library Web page or any Web page can be a great source of information and a leaping off point for further research. Confusion on where and how to begin a Web site should not prevent someone who is interested from creating one. ★

MeSH Available on the Web

The following information is Reprinted from the NLM Technical Bulletin, November-December 1996

The Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) are now available over the World Wide Web. The 1997 MeSH is available on the Web in several formats.

From the NLM Web site, (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>) click on General Information, Organizational Structure, Medical Subject Headings Section, then Downloading. It is possible to: browse the tree structures; download a file containing all of MeSH in tree structure; or download

all of MeSH in MARC format. The downloads require the completion of an online Memorandum of Understanding before a download can be done. No license or fee is required. In the future it is hoped that MeSH will be available in other formats as well. Comments and suggestions are welcomed; please direct your correspondence to Stuart Nelson, MD, Head, Medical Subject Headings, e-mail: nelson@nlm.nih.gov. ★

PSRML at the MLG Joint Meeting: A New Team

by Beryl Glitz

PSRML staff were pleased to once again join members of the Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group and the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona at the Groups' annual Joint Meeting. The meeting for 1997, *Innovations and Collaboration: Views of the Future*, was held at Berkeley, CA in late January. In keeping with the meeting theme, PSRML highlighted their own contributions to innovation and collaboration with the introduction of a new "team" of librarians, new programs, and opportunities for working together with Network libraries.

PSRML had collaborated with the NCNMLG Program Committee in co-sponsoring the Monday morning plenary session, *Electronic Publishing and Resource Sharing: How will our Document Delivery Models Change?* (See page 6). Staff also taught a continuing education course, *Getting Started with the Internet and the World Wide Web*, at UC Berkeley. A contributed paper presentation entitled, *Focus Groups: The Importance of Listening to Our Users*, featured some of the findings from our recent focus groups with public health professionals.

The PSRML exhibit booth provided an opportunity for meeting attendees to talk with all the staff, including our newest members, Heidi Sandstrom and Jules Darren. Featured at the booth was information on a variety of new PSRML programs and services, including

demonstrations of *BioSites*, the newly released World Wide Web site, developed collaboratively with the region's 12 Resource Libraries (See *Latitudes*, vol. 6, no. 1), and the Windows version of Grateful Med.

In the annual RML Update, PSRML staff provided details of some of our recent activities:

- *BioSites*, a collaborative project to develop a Web site of evaluative information on quality Internet resources in biomedicine;
- An *Evidence Based Medicine* class being developed for end users to assist them in keeping up with the changing body of biomedical knowledge;
- The California Statewide Serials Project, a service of the Library of California which will incorporate SERHOLD information with serial holdings from California academic and public libraries to form one large database which will be available online;
- The PSRML Internet consulting and training program to assist regional librarians to gain access to and fully utilize Internet resources;
- Newly developed PSRML Outreach subcontracts for Network Libraries to assist institutions without professional library services in getting access to electronic services including Grateful Med searching, Loansome Doc, and Internet resources,

through the development of small consortia;

- The four versions of Grateful Med which are now available - DOC, Mac, Windows, and via the Internet;
- The Fixed Fee MEDLARS service which is still available for institutions who have access to the Internet;
- Various NLM grants available for libraries, including Internet Connection Grants and Resource Grants for single institutions and consortia;
- SERHOLD updating activities and information on how union list products will be handled for the region;
- The Library Improvement Project which will assist small hospitals to improve their library service component;
- PSRML planned experiments with distance education to teach health professionals in rural areas how to get access to and utilize the Internet;
- Focus group discussions with health professionals and health sciences librarians to learn more about their information needs and practices;
- PSRML sponsorship of the M L A / A L A / A A L L videoconference in March.

PSRML staff always look forward to this Joint Meeting as an opportunity to meet with regional librarians. If you would like more information about any of these programs and activities please give us a call at (310) 825-1200 or (800) 338-7657. ★

SAY CHEESE, SAY SERHOLD

by Heidi Sandstrom

If you have ever been involved in scheduling or participating in a group photograph, you know how difficult it can be to agree on a date, to get everyone to show up at the right time and to look his/her best on that day. Even when each individual has struck a pose and that shutter clicks, some will look better than others. But in the end, most will want a group picture to call their own.

Here in Region 7, we have scheduled the group photograph (one of those BIG panorama pictures) of our Region's serials holdings, to be taken on May 1, 1997, by the NLM "photographer". This date is NLM's next quarterly deadline for producing a regional SERHOLD tape. NLM will now produce only one tape per year for each of the nation's eight NN/LM Regions and will no longer produce any subsets of a region's holdings for groups within the region who want a union list product. This means that if any individual library or group of libraries wants a union list product, it will have to be generated from this one regional tape.

In the January/February 1996 issue of *Latitudes*, Irene Lovas indicated that the PSRML would no longer be able to utilize UCLA for the production of union list subsets from this NLM SERHOLD tape, as it has done in the past. However, through an arrangement with NLM, the Pacific Northwest Regional Medical Library (PNRML) will now be providing union list products for all of the RMLs. Once the annual regional tape has been produced by NLM, PSRML will request that a copy be sent to PNRML. Products for regional, state, and consortia groups or individual libraries can all be

produced from this tape. Any group or library wanting a union list product must contact PSRML with their request. These requests will be forwarded to PNRML for the required programming to produce the desired products which can be made available in hard copy or electronic (FTP or diskette) formats. The costs of these products can be quite variable, depending on the amount of programming time (approximately \$30/hour) required for a given output format, and on the number of libraries sharing the cost. The time required to produce and send the product can vary from days to weeks, depending on the availability of the Seattle programmer. Each group desiring such a product is responsible for duplicating and distributing the Union list product to their participants.

Last November (*Latitudes*, vol. 5, no. 6) I issued a challenge to all participating libraries in our Region to update their holdings records in SERHOLD by the end of 1996, knowing that this challenge was going to be met to varying degrees. Many libraries have been successful in updating their serials holdings; for various reasons other libraries have not. In the next few months, I will be working closely with Area SERHOLD Coordinators and representatives from the Medical Library Groups to ensure that ALL participating libraries have updated their holdings.

The two most common problems I have identified from your calls about updating via the Online SERHOLD Updating Systems are (1) accessing an NLM computer that requires 3270 terminal emulation and (2) determining

the extent and quality of your existing holdings.

The solution to the first problem is to obtain telecommunication software that provides this type of emulation for dialup access (we usually recommend Procomm software from Datastorm) or to obtain a separate tn3270 telnet client for Internet access (see "Connecting to DOCLINE and SERHOLD via the Internet", *Latitudes*, vol. 5, no. 6).

The solution to the second problem is less straightforward. Many of you have requested a current list of your library's serials holdings, because you have an incomplete list. At this time I can only recommend that you refer back to the latest "greenbar printout" and reconstruct, as best you can, any changes made subsequent to July, 1995. I hope, in the near future, to be able to remedy this situation, as this current holdings list is one of the basic tools you need in order to update holdings. Again, we can only generate these individual library lists from a SERHOLD tape that reflects updated holdings.

As the saying goes, "We must all hang together, or we will hang separately." Please help yourself and your library colleagues provide the optimal sharing of resources within our Region by updating your SERHOLD records before MAY 1, 1997. If you are having difficulties with equipment or telecommunication software, or if you need training or training manuals, first contact your Area SERHOLD Coordinator. If you do not know who your Coordinator is or you need additional assistance, don't hesitate to contact me at PSRML.

Say "Cheese", say "SERHOLD"! ➡

Highlighting DOCLINE Enhancements

Documentation of the new DOCLINE system enhancements has been mailed to participants and is also available on the NLM homepage at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/libraries/docline/docsysnw.html>.

You may want to pay particular attention to the following items:

- Participating libraries that prefer to use the Ariel delivery method to receive documents need to review their routing tables to make sure that libraries that provide Ariel service are included.* If not, these requests will route directly to NLM.
- In the Borrow module, users can now enter a Unique Identifier (UI) from these MEDLARS databases:
AIDSLINE, CANCERLIT, SPACELINE, HealthSTAR, HealthSTAR 75, PREMEDLINE and OLDMEDLINE, in addition to MEDLINE.
- In the Borrow module, the system will automatically convert non-journal citations to monograph entries so that the

request will route on the Monograph/Audiovisual/Non-SERLINE (MANS) routing table. Be sure you have at least one library listed in this table.* At this time there is no way to stop a MANS request from routing to NLM. Users should check STATUS to determine if a request has routed to NLM; it can then be canceled if it has not yet been received by NLM.

- Participants must use the SERLINE Routing Cell Start-Stop feature in DOCLINE to prevent a request from being routed to NLM. See pages 3-16 and 3-17 of your DOCLINE manual for an explanation of this feature. In a few months NLM will be moving to a new document delivery system, Relais (look for an article on this in the next *Latitudes*). The new system will not read the COMMENTS field to identify requests that state "NLM DO NOT FILL." Participants will be charged for each filled request supplied by NLM.
- If phone numbers and Ariel information are stored in DOCUSER, then the DOCLINE system will retrieve this information from DOCUSER.

Please verify your DOCUSER record to ensure its accuracy.* DOCUSER can be accessed through the standard MEDLARS login. Enter login selection and then your <USERID/PASSWORD>. Next enter the command <FILE DOC>. At the prompt, enter your Library Identifier (LIBID). To see your full DOCUSER record enter the command <PRT DL INDENTED>. To logout enter the command <STOP Y>.

- In the LD RECPT module, look for comments from IGM users or GM Windows users. The comment may contain up to 158 characters. It will display below the HOLDING field and will have the field name COMMENT.

*If you need to make changes to your SERLINE or MANS routing table, if you need to update the information in your DOCUSER record, or if you have additional questions about these enhancements, please contact the PSRML Network Coordinator at (310) 825-1200 or (800) 338-7657 or send an email message to heidits@library.ucla.edu. ★

The Future for Librarians: Positioning Yourself for Success

An AALL/MLA/SLA Satellite Video Teleconference: "Bringing education opportunities directly to you!"

March 20, 1997
10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. PST
Gain up to three MLA CE contact hours.

PSRML is co-sponsoring this

teleconference with the Library at the VA Medical Center, Wadsworth. Come and join us to:

- Learn about new roles for librarians and ways to market yourself within your institution or with other career opportunities.
- Receive ideas from colleagues.

- Learn techniques from MLA member experts.
- Discuss problems and discover solutions.

If you are interested in attending the session, please call the VA Medical Center at (310)268-3110 to register, as seating is limited to twenty people. ★

Electronic Publishing and Resource Sharing: How will our Document Delivery Models Change?

by Beryl Glitz

The session on electronic publishing and resource sharing presented at the recent Joint Meeting of the regional MLA chapters was co-sponsored by PSRML and the Joint Meeting program committee, and focused on a topic which is sure to bring significant changes to the library's role. Speakers representing some of the important players in this new future were on hand to discuss applications and implications of electronic publishing and how it might affect our traditional methods of resource sharing within the NN/LM.

Tom Rindfleisch, Director of Lane Library, Stanford University, provided a good introduction to the topic by demonstrating PUBMED, a project, under development at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the National Library of Medicine. PUBMED is a good example of how electronic full-text can be made available through links from the bibliographic records in a database, in this case MEDLINE, to Web sites of the publishers who have mounted the full text of their journal articles (in this project, Highwire Press and the New England Journal of Medicine). This ability to link resources at the user's desktop will make possible a very different way for the individual researcher or practitioner to access information. For a description of the PUBMED project, you can visit the NLM's Web page at the following address: www4.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/overview.html.

A series of slides taken from Mr. Rindfleisch's presentation and demonstration are available at the following Web address: <http://www.smi.stanford.edu/people/tcr/pubmed/>.

Alison Bunting, PSRML Director and Associate University Librarian for Sciences, UCLA, followed this

presentation with a discussion of how document delivery models might change within this new type of publishing environment. After reviewing the traditional document delivery methods used by health sciences libraries, Ms. Bunting described the various models which have emerged for delivery of information from electronic journals, and how libraries are currently providing interlibrary loans from this medium. She went on to describe the University of California's planning initiative for a UC Digital Library as an example of how libraries will be changing the way they provide document access to their users. This change will effect the roles of not only individual libraries and librarians but also our professional associations, the Regional Medical Library, and NLM. Ms. Bunting sketched out possible future roles for these groups and how they might start preparing themselves for new challenges.

A copy of Ms. Bunting's complete presentation is accessible from the PSRML Web Site.

The third speaker was Mary Ann Nash, Director of OCLC Pacific, who described OCLC's First Search Electronic Collections Online. This project is being developed to help libraries gain access to large collections of academic journals on the Web. Based on the premise that librarians should make the decisions for their own library's serials acquisitions, First Search Online provides a Web-based search interface for journals which includes access to all OCLC database citations, but full-text access only to the journals to which a library actually subscribes. Presently 260 journals are available through the system, and OCLC has archival rights to all of them. The system is designed to eventually

support document delivery and be integrated into local systems and other information resources.

Slides from Ms. Nash's presentation are available from the PSRML Web Site.

The final speaker was Lucy Thomas, Director of the Reeves Medical Library at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Ms. Thomas considered the various issues facing hospital librarians as they contemplate access to the electronic literature: cost, demand, retention, equipment, and training for both staff and users. She also discussed the emerging roles for the librarian in this electronic environment.

Ms. Thomas's presentation is also available from the PSRML Web Site.

The session concluded with a lively question and answer session, moderated by Rachael Anderson, Director of the University of Arizona Health Sciences Library, in which the speakers were joined by Clifford Lynch, Director of Library Automation at UC. The panel addressed a variety of questions on archiving electronic documents, authentication, justifying the library in the electronic age, privacy, funding for electronic publishing, and possible roles for MLA in helping librarians cope with this emerging electronic environment.

PSRML has had a long standing role in facilitating resource sharing among health sciences libraries in this region of the NN/LM. Organizing programs such as this, to inform and educate library staff, is one way of maintaining our ongoing commitment to resource sharing. We will continue to work with Network libraries to make sure that their needs, in providing access to the biomedical literature for their users, continue to be recognized in this new electronic environment. ★

LIBRARY NETWORKING IN CALIFORNIA

Barbara Will, Network Coordinator
California State Library

For the last seven years, California has been planning a multitype library network that will link and serve its 8,000 libraries of all types - academic, public, school, and special - through resource sharing. Named "The Library of California" in recognition of the virtual library that will be created through resource sharing, this new network will build upon the California Library Services Act, which is limited to public libraries. The library of California will provide services with direct benefit to the public as well as services of indirect benefit that support its resource-sharing activities.

It is anticipated that the California Library Networking Task Force will seek a sponsor this year for enabling legislation and new State funds to begin to implement the program.

BACKGROUND

Trial projects involving cooperation among public libraries began nationwide in the late 1950s and early 1960s, frequently using Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds. In many states, those federally funded demonstration projects paved the way for state-funded public library systems. California's own Public Library Services Act, the predecessor to the California Library Services Act (CLSA), was passed in 1963 and supported the creation of cooperative public library systems statewide.

The next wave, in California and in other states, was the expansion of cooperation and resource sharing from public libraries to all types of likes: academic, public, school, and special. Health sciences libraries, of course, are special libraries. Such networks have now been implemented in states such as

Illinois, Florida, and New York.

A network supplements, and does not duplicate or replace, local library service. Indeed, its participants must already be capable of meeting the basic, recurring needs of their primary clientele. A network respects the autonomy of its members. It balances the needs and priorities of all its members while acknowledging and respecting their differences.

The following comments, expressed in the words of health sciences librarians, address the benefits of and barriers to multitype library networking in California:

Health sciences librarians in California perceive resource-sharing, especially through electronic document delivery/interlibrary loan, as the greatest potential benefit of networking: temporary research projects or unanticipated medical treatment can make existing collections insufficient and the necessary informational materials are often no longer available for purchase. Collaborative undertakings in such areas as joint database licenses or shared digitization facilities are the second most important benefit.

The principal barrier to participation in networking in California, according to these same health sciences librarians, is the perception by some that networking is unnecessary, since their libraries already fulfill all the needs of their clientele or existing networks already fill the breach. They say that other librarians, especially public librarians, don't recognize that health sciences libraries have different service needs and require different resource-sharing protocols.

As a result of these surveys — and the different priorities for and restrictions on the different type of libraries statewide — health sciences librarians have been involved in the seven-year network planning process from its beginning to assure that their needs and priorities would be addressed.

NETWORK SERVICES

Each health sciences library will identify what it can share and how it will share it, within the constraints of its own jurisdiction, and select the network services in which it will participate. In addition, the library will participate in the governance of the local Regional Library Network and access State-supported services without fees.

Those services are:

Services of Direct Public Benefit

Interlibrary loan/document delivery, patron referral and on-site services, and direct loan privileges will all be reimbursed through the Library of California. The direct loan program among libraries will allow the patrons of any health sciences library to have direct borrowing privileges at the other participating libraries, including the major research libraries of the state. The electronic direct access program goes one step further: patrons holding electronic library cards will be able to electronically search the catalogs of participating libraries through the Internet, select items, and receive them directly at their homes or places of business. In addition, the patron referral program will enable users of a health sciences library to obtain entry into another library, such as a newspaper library or a university library, which they

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(Library Networking, continued from page 7)

would otherwise have been unable to use. As a result of the health sciences librarians involved in the planning process, there will be a special provision for RUSH requests.

The reference program will provide back-up services to health sciences libraries when people ask for information beyond the library's capacity or outside its scope, by tapping into the most comprehensive and specialized library collections of the state. A "virtual" Ethnic Resource Center will enable librarians to deliver multicultural information in all the languages desired by their patrons; the master database will be online, but products may be created from it in a variety of formats for patrons and librarians (CD-ROM video, and others). A prototype product now provides prenatal and infant care information in Spanish and English.

Programs to Build the Resource Pool

The coordinated resource development program seeks to create the broadest and richest possible base of library resources available statewide to meet the changing needs of Californians. Its purpose is to enhance services, not to reduce local expenditures for library materials, by enabling libraries to anticipate information demands, share database licenses, harness new formats and technologies, and avoid unnecessary redundancy.

A Preservation Information Center will be established, and partial funds will be provided for the preservation of library items in any format that document California's heritage, enhance its educational and economic future, and portray the cultural diversity of its people. It will also provide training and consultative assistance to all libraries.

Programs to Maximize Service Use

A training and continuing education program will assist users and library staff in using network services, particularly through the Internet and other new technologies. It will be complemented by a broad-based campaign to expand public awareness of the value, services, and resources of all local libraries, including their ability to serve as gateways to the resources of other California libraries.

Identifying and locating resources for sharing is also an essential support tool. The new technologies especially Internet will support faster and expanded user access to the books, magazines, audiovisual materials, etc. of all the State's libraries; and the resource-sharing agreements will be in place to enable the patron to request and obtain the desired materials. The three major serials union databases of the state, including that maintained by the National Library of Medicine for California libraries (SERHOLD), will be upgraded and merged into one master online database.

Programs to Deliver Resources

A basic telecommunications infrastructure that provides upgradable bandwidth as the user requirements grow will be the foundation for the communications and delivery program. It will be "affordable," meaning that it will cost no more than the cost of a local telephone call from every library in the state to obtain complete and direct access. A "universal service" feature involves the designation and support of local libraries that agree to provide direct public access on a free or cost-recovery basis to a wide range of electronic information resources and services through the Internet.

Although telecommunications will be the dominant technology, some provision will also be made for physical delivery.

NEXT STEPS

Now that The Library of California and its services have been defined the library community is seeking support for its implementation.*

California has made tremendous progress in multitype networking, developing policies that are unique to the needs of the state and responsive to the diversity of its population. All interested persons are encouraged to participate in the evolutionary process in the years ahead. It is the best thinking of thousands of Californians which has brought us this far, with policies uniquely suited to this unique state. It is the same involvement which will assure us that the best possible network services will be implemented to respond to the diversity and the challenge of California.

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***Editorial Note:** It is the understanding of the editor that the California Library Association has obtained a sponsor for The Library of California bill and initial funding request. The bill is being introduced in 1997, the first year of a two-year session. PSRML will keep Network libraries informed of the legislative progress. ★
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Network Membership Questionnaire

Please return your Network Membership Questionnaire TODAY, whether you are joining or renewing or may consider doing so at some future date. To date, we have received about 50% of the questionnaires we mailed in November as part of our Network Membership Campaign. If you have additional questions about Network membership or if you did not receive the questionnaire, call Heidi Sandstrom, Network Coordinator at PSRML. Thank you for your support! ★

LIBRARY NETWORKING IN CALIFORNIA - Addendum

To promote information sharing among libraries, and to continue the important dialog within our community on cooperative services, the California State Library will sponsor Regional Network Forums throughout the State in March and April. The tentative agenda for these Forums includes:

- an overview of multitype library networking and resource-sharing in California
- library cooperation at the regional level
- related state and national developments

The Regional Network Forums are scheduled for:

March 17	Fresno, Sheraton Four Points (previous name: Smugglers Inn)
March 19	Sacramento, Radisson Hotel
March 21	Pasadena, Double Tree Hotel
April 7	Temecula, Temecula Creek Inn
April 9	Burlingame, San Francisco Airport Marriot

Those who register by February 28 are guaranteed space; late registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and closes five days before each Network Forum. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be collected **at the door**; this fee includes lunch. If you bring a check, make it payable to Peninsula Library System. DO NOT send money with the registration form. If you need additional information, contact Barbara Will, Networking Coordinator at the State Library at (916) 653-7071 or Benita Titman at the California State Library at (916) 653-5217. ★

The Emerging Health Information Infrastructure (HII97)

The Friends of the National Library of Medicine are pleased to announce the second annual conference, **The Emerging Health Information Infrastructure**, which will be held April 13-15, 1997 at the Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington D.C. The conference will focus on new and existing healthcare initiatives and identify the opportunities and impediments that exist for the medical community in the digital future. HII97 will be held in conjunction with the third annual conference, **Partnerships for Networked Consumer Health Information**, which runs from April 14-16. If you would like more information about either of these meetings, please contact the Friends at (202) 462-0992, extension 56. ★

OLDMEDLINE: the Newest ELHILL Database

The following Information is Reprinted from the NLM Technical Bulletin, November-December 1996

On December 18, 1996, a new database, OLDMEDLINE, will join the family of MEDLINE databases. OLDMEDLINE, or OLDMED, will initially contain over 307,000 citations that were published in the 1964 and 1965 *Cumulated Index Medicus (CIM)*.

This database will be accessible to command language searchers from any USER: prompt with the command FILE OLDMED or FILE OLDMEDLINE. Until programming changes can occur, the file will not have an input form screen in any of the Grateful Med programs; however, Grateful Med users who know

how to search directly with the command language may choose direct searching and then give the FILE command. This file will not be immediately available via Internet Grateful Med (IGM).

Future Plans for OLDMED

While the OLDMED database may contain older data, it is a new database, and it will continue to grow. NLM expects to add citations from earlier years of *Index Medicus* as resources permit. NLM will begin the effort to add citations from 1963 and 1962 CIM during 1997. NLM has

begun work on making interlibrary loan available for this file as well as offline print capabilities. The \$DSFILE command is operational in OLDMED. Watch the online news for the most up-to-date announcements.

The OLDMEDLINE database is expected to be available for leasing in 1998.

NLM will evaluate user response to OLDMED, and will consider enhancements to the data as resources permit. We welcome your comments on, and suggestions for improving OLDMEDLINE. ★

—prepared by Jan Willis
MEDLARS Management Section

Information Access Training for Public Health Professionals:

Planning a Joint CDC-NLM-NN/LM Program

by Claire Hamasu and Beryl Glitz

On January 9-10, 1997 a meeting at the National Library of Medicine brought together representatives of the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs and national organizations of public health professionals with representatives of NLM and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, to explore ways in which these organizations can work together to improve the training of public health professionals in accessing biomedical information. This meeting was a follow-up to one held in April 1995, sponsored by the Public Health Service, in which leaders in the National Information Infrastructure (NII) and population health communities had explained their work to each other, delineated the barriers that currently discourage application of NII technologies to the information problems of public health professionals, and laid out a strategy for moving forward.

At the January follow-up meeting, staff members from NLM, the Regional Medical Libraries, CDC, and public health organizations discussed and planned approaches to improve

the training of public health professionals to use current technology to access biomedical information. On the first day a sharing session was held where NLM and CDC described programs that involved the training of health professionals. CDC's more traditional correspondence and distance education classes and the more high tech Information Network for Public Health Officials (INPHO) were solutions to a problem of shrinking budgets that prohibited public health professionals from traveling to receive training. Regional Medical Libraries from the Middle Atlantic, Greater Midwest, South Central and Pacific Northwest regions related outreach efforts

As a first step in the Information Access Training project, PSRML wants to identify any existing efforts by NN/LM members to provide outreach, training, services, etc. to local public health workers. We would also like to know what assistance PSRML and NLM might provide to help in these outreach efforts. Please contact Beryl Glitz or Claire Hamasu at (310)825-51200 or (800)338-RMLS if your library is conducting any type of outreach program for public health workers at the state, county or city level who are not part of your primary clientele.

that involved public health departments.

Representatives from public health organizations summarized studies that they had conducted to determine the information concerns, level of computer skills, and technology inventory of their membership. Following are the key points raised during the meeting:

- Access to information resources for public health officials, as well as training in the use of these resources, need to be available at the worksite and be available also to students, volunteers, and the citizens who public health professionals serve.
- Distance education in whatever medium, from paper to teleconferencing, should be encouraged.
- Because of the information overload, assistance and training in filtering is needed to help users obtain answers to their specific questions.
- There is a wide discrepancy among public health officials in their level of technological connectivity.
- Partnering with organizations that have networks in place will make the most efficient use of these networks and increase the numbers who have access to it.

During the second day of the meeting, a smaller group of

staff members from NLM and CDC met with the RML Associate Directors to develop a draft plan for a joint program, based upon current and future information needs identified the previous day. The goal of the joint program is to: provide public health workers with timely, convenient access to information resources that can help them do their jobs more

(continued on page 11)

Introduction to Health Services Research: A Class Manual

The following information is Reprinted from the NLM Technical Bulletin, November-December 1996

The National Information Center for Health Services Research (NICHSR) is responsible for developing information services to the research and library communities involved in health services research. Health services research encompasses the difficult issues of access, quality, and cost of health care. As part of that responsibility, NICHSR has developed a half-day course to introduce librarians to this field. To reach librarians who cannot attend an on-site class, NICHSR has placed the class manual on their home page. To reach the NICHSR home page, open URL: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/about_nlm/organization/library_operations/nichsr/nichsr.html. Select the "Introduction to HSR: Class Manual" which is under "Outreach and Training." The

manual provides definitions of health services research, a short history of the field, and descriptions of key players and research issues. Using a brief problem-based format, the manual presents health services research scenarios that librarians can use to formulate search strategies.

Database instructions follow for HealthSTAR, HSTAT, DIRLINE, and HSRProj. Links extend to other Health Services Research Web sites. The manual also provides descriptions of basic study designs to support the librarian's role in evidence-based research projects.

Comments on this manual are greatly appreciated. You can send messages from the Web page or call NICHSR at 301-496-0176.



(CDC Program, continued from page10)

effectively. Specific objectives include:

1. Increasing awareness of NLM, NN/LM and CDC programs and services among public health officials.
2. Increasing awareness of public health needs and resources among NN/LM members
3. Assisting public health workers to obtain the hardware/software and the Internet connections needed for effective access to information resources.
4. Training public health workers to use the technology

required for effective access to information resources.

5. Training public health workers to identify and use pertinent information resources and services.

PSRML will be actively involved in this joint project through the provision of training classes, identifying regional programs aimed at public health officials (see insert on previous page), and promoting existing and developing services which help achieve the goals of the project. ★

Region 7 Outreach

Project Awards Request for Purchase Order Quotations

PSRML is pleased to issue its first ever call for purchase order quotations to solicit proposals designed to improve biomedical information access in institutions which serve health professionals but lack professional library services. Any Network member in our region is eligible for one of these awards; PSRML will be making up to five awards during the next 12 months, each will total up to \$3,500.

The main objective of this project is to improve information access by the development of linkages between Network member libraries and health care institutions which have no professional library service. These linkages would be either through the formation of a new consortium of institutions serving health care professionals, or by including new institutions within an existing consortium.

Bidders must be an NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region member; a DOCLINE/Loansome Doc participant, or a library which has submitted a DOCLINE application; have access to the Internet; and provide a key individual who has an MLS or equivalent to supervise the project and provide training.

The deadline for proposals is April 14th, and the period of performance will be from May 1, 1997 through April 30, 1998. A complete copy of the Request, including proposal instructions and statement of work, is available on the PSRML Web Site. Copies are also available by contacting the PSRML office at (310)825-1200 or (800) 338-RMLS. ★

Upcoming Events

March 1997

- 20 AALL/MLA/SLA Satellite Video
Teleconference: "Bringing education
opportunities directly to you!"
VA Wadsworth, CA
- 24-25 *"Fundamental of MEDLARS"
Los Angeles, CA

April 1997

- 13-15 The Emerging Health Information
Infrastructure
Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

June 1997

- 1 NLM Resource Grants Deadline

*"Fundamental of MEDLARS" class is offered by the Online Training
Center, call 800-338-7657 and choose 2 from the menu.

LATITUDES

Schedule for 1997

Issue	Copy Deadline to PSRML	Mounted on WEB
volume 6, number 3 May/June 1997	April 3, 1997	4/30
volume 6, number 4 July/August 1997 (RML directors meeting, MLA meeting highlights)	June 4, 1997	6/30
volume 6, number 5 September/October 1997	August 4, 1997	8/29
volume 6, number 6 November/December 1997	October 6, 1997	10/31

****Paper issues are usually mailed out at the beginning of the first
month of the issue.**

Latitudes Survey

In *Latitudes*, volume 5, number 6, we published a readership survey on page 13 to get feedback from you about the newsletter. If you have not returned the survey as yet, please return it to PSRML as soon as possible. We will be summarizing the results of this survey in the next issue of *Latitudes* - May/June, volume 6, number 3. If you need another copy, please call PSRML at (310)825-1200 or (800)338-7657 or print a copy from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psr/lat/v5n6/survl2.html> or send an email to mcdonald@library.ucla.edu. Thank you for your support! ☺

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